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ABSTRACT

This report summarizes information from an annual survey on child care centers located in General Services Administration (GSA) space, reflecting status as of October 2, 1995. In 1995, 102 centers were operating, about a tenfold increase from 1985. Total enrollment in the centers is 6,496, and about 40% of the children are between 37 and 60 months of age. All centers provide full-time care up to kindergarten, but more than half also provide infant care. Forty-seven centers are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. Seventy-three percent of the centers are operated by professional child care providers. Full-time average tuition ranges from $100 to $133 per week for federal workers, and from $105 to $141 for non-federal workers. In 92 centers, some form of tuition assistance was available, and most centers receive some form of outside funds. The centers employ 1,363 full-time and 313 part-time staff, and the annual turnover rate is 33%. The range of salaries for directors was $17,268-$51,000; for highest paid teachers, $11,648-$32,150; and for beginning teachers with a degree, $10,400-$21,930. Almost all centers provided staff some paid vacation days, sick leave, and health insurance. (TM)

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ED 393 580

GSA · FAMILY CARE AT WORK

Office of Workplace Initiatives

Child Care Program

Profile of Child Care Centers Located in GSA Space

JANUARY 1996

DATA COLLECTED AS OF OCTOBER 1995

PS 024073

U.S. General Services Administration
Office of Workplace Initiatives
18th and F Streets, NW, Room 6119
Washington, DC 20405
Telephone: 202/501-3965

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PURPOSE

Information from each child care center located in GSA space is collected on an annual basis to develop a comprehensive data base. The results of these surveys provide GSA and its client agencies with an updated analysis of center operations. The results are also used for legislative briefings and to provide policy makers with accurate information about GSA's child care program.

DATA COLLECTION

Surveys were distributed to each center in GSA space in September, 1995. The information provided by centers was in terms of their status as of October 2, 1995. Completion of the survey typically involves the center director, the provider, and the board of directors.

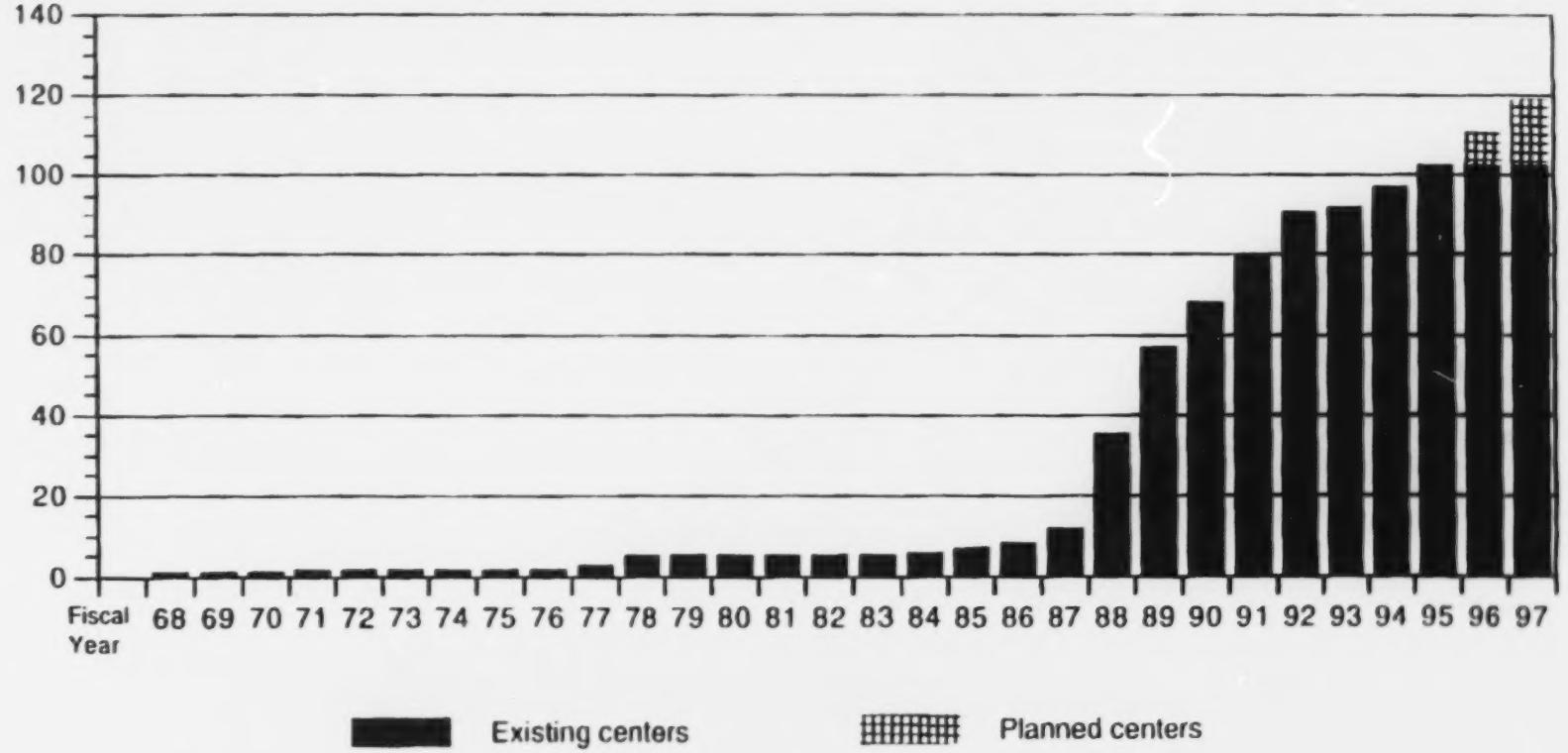
Centers are located in many different parts of the United States and, therefore, in many different cost of living areas. Geography, as well as size of center, services offered, and number of operating hours per day, affect tuition rates as well as staff salaries and benefits. Accordingly, the range within such variables is fairly large; any given average number needs to be considered carefully before use.

FINDINGS

One hundred two centers were operating in GSA space as of October 2, 1995. The increments in number of centers over time is shown in the graph on the next page. The greatest rate of growth occurred with the passage of Title 40 of the United States Code, Section 490(b), in 1985. Centers initiated in 1985-1986 were completed and functional in 1988 and 1989. Child care centers in GSA space are subject to the terms of Section 490(b), as amended, and the special conditions of the GSA licensing agreement.

Aspects of the FY 1995 data follow under major headings of Center Characteristics, Accreditation, Management, Financial Information, and Staffing.

Cumulative Growth of Child Care Centers in GSA Space



1. CENTER CHARACTERISTICS

In the information that follows, FT *refers to "full time" and* PT *to "part time."*

Enrollment

Total Enrollment = 6,496 (FT = 5,656; PT = 840)
Range = FT: 10 - 174
PT: 0 - 66

Federal Enrollment = 4,131
Non-Federal Enrollment = 2,365

Children in the Centers from each Age Group

AGES	TOTALS	TOTAL FT	TOTAL PT	AVERAGE FT
0-12 months	887	781	106	9
13-24 months	1,000	883	123	10
25-36 months	1,285	1,156	129	13
37-60 months	2,775	2,421	348	24
over 60 months	549	415	134	13

Hours of Center Operation

82% of the centers are open 11 or more hours per day
Range = 10 - 18 hours per day

Programs

In addition to full-time care for children up to kindergarten age, some centers have specialized programs:

87% of the centers have Infant Care
64% Drop-in/Emergency Care
41% Summer Program for School Aged Children
32% Kindergarten (State-approved program)
13% Before/After School Program
1% Moderately Sick Child Care

2. ACCREDITATION BY THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN (NAEYC)

47 centers currently are accredited.
11 have completed the self-study process and are waiting for the NAEYC validator's visit or the Commission's decisions following the validator's visit.
29 are currently in the self-study process.
15 have been involved in center renovations or have a new provider or have only been established within the last year and are thus not eligible for accreditation. The self-study process will begin in these as soon as circumstances permit.

3. MANAGEMENT

Provider operated = 73% *(Operated by a Professional Child Care Provider hired by the Board or Federal Agency)*
Board operated = 27% *(Operated by the Board of Directors)*

51% of the center operators are nonprofit organizations and 49% are for-profit.

4. FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Tuition

Average Tuition Per Week

	Infants	Toddlers	Pre-School 2 yrs	Pre-School 3-5 yrs	B/A*	K**
Federal	$133	$125	$112	$100	$58	$101
Non-Federal	$141	$132	$118	$105	$60	$105

Tuition Ranges

	Infants	Toddlers	Preschool 2 yrs	Preschool 3-5 yrs	B/A*	K**
Federal	$68-$225	$68-$208	$55-$195	$55-$164	$25-$86	$55-$154
Non-Federal	$71-$250	$68-$216	$58-$195	$58-$168	$33-$86	$55-$154

For Federal children, the average tuition increased over the last 12 months by 6% for infants and toddlers and by 4% for 2-year-olds and 3 to 5-year-olds. (Tuition rates vary as a function of geographic location, services offered, number of operating hour, size of center, etc. Comparisons should be used with caution.)

* Before/After School Program
** Kindergarten Program

Services included in tuition:

64% of the Centers provide:	Breakfast
65%	Morning snack
84%	Lunch
96%	Afternoon snack
4%	Diapers

Tuition Assistance

In 92 centers, a total of 1,024 families received some form of tuition assistance

In addition to funds for tuition assistance collected by the Boards of Directors and parent groups through fund-raising events, moneys came from various sources, directly or indirectly affecting cost of child care for parents:

75 centers received Combined Federal Campaign and/or United Way funds
11 have applied for Federal Child Care Development Block Grants
7 have received non-Federal grants
43 centers participated in the USDA food program

5. STAFFING

In the information that follows, FT *refers to "full time" and* PT *to "part time."*

Centers employ 1,363 FT and 313 PT staff (caregivers, administrators, and support staff).
63% of the Directors have 10 or more years in early childhood education; 61% have 5 or more years of administrative experience.
16% centers have staff members with disabilities.

Staff Turnover

Average number who left centers in the twelve month period = 5
Range = 0 - 22
Annual turnover rate = 33%

Benefits Provided

99% of centers give paid vacation days. The average number of paid vacation days is 9 per year.

81% of centers give paid sick leave. The average number of sick days earned is 8 per year. *(Some providers combine paid vacation days and paid sick leave days and allow personnel to use these days in any way as personal time. Thus, a number of centers are not counted here as specifically giving paid sick leave. Combined personal time is counted in the paid vacation days category. Percentages and averages number of days in the separate categories are affected accordingly.)*

94% of centers offer health insurance and almost half of those offer it to both FT and PT employees. 77 centers contribute 50% or more of the premium and 13 of these contribute 100%. The range for the 88 employer contributions is 10% - 100%.

48% of centers have a retirement plan.

Annual Staff Salaries

	Range	Average
Director Salaries	$17,268 - $51,000	$29,179
Highest Paid Teacher Salaries	$11,648 - $32,150	$19,027
Salaries of Beginning Teacher with degree	$10,400 - $21,930	$15,814

84 of the centers reported pay increases during the past year. *Of the 82 reporting the amount of increase, the range was 1.5% - 17%; the average was 4.7%.*